GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2056
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Survey of Polluted Cities
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey of cities across the country regarding increasing level of air pollution;
(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra;
(c) whether the Environment Pollution Control and Prevention Authority has any graded action plan for the said cities and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the measures/steps taken by the Government to address the high level of air pollution in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board monitors the ambient air quality at 680 monitoring stations located in 300 cities / towns covering 29 states and 6 union territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). State-wise ambient air quality data including Maharashtra during 2015 is given at Annexure. Ambient Air Quality data with respect to pollutant parameter SO2 reveals that all monitoring stations are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 50 Âµg/m3 (annual standard for SO2) during 2015. The concentration of NO2, are exceeding the annual standard of 40 Âµg/m3 only in Delhi and West Bengal. With respect to particulate matter (PM10), five states viz. Goa, Kerala, Meghalaya, Puducherry and Mizoram are within NAAQS of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard) during 2015 while at all other locations the values exceed the prescribed norm.

(c) The Government has notified a Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR, which comprises of measures to be taken for different levels of pollution viz. Severe + or Emergency, severe, Very poor, Moderate to poor and Moderate.

(d) The various measures taken by the Government to check air pollution in the country; inter alia, include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; and ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM etc.

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